Programme 2026

THE Archway THEATRE COMPANY

www.archwaytheatre.co.uk

The Monkey's Paw

and other stories...



Chair's welcome

Welcome to The Archway Theatre. Whether this is your first visit or your 50th, I hope that have enjoyed a drink in the bar before settling into your seat to have a read through the programme.

As Chair of The Archway Theatre, I am very proud of the huge team who are required to open our doors and put on a show. Everyone you will have met this evening, from the friendly face on box office to the person who sold you the programme and the team behind the bar, are all volunteers.

All of the people on stage performing, the crew backstage, the person behind you in the lighting box are also all volunteers.

Performances with children require a team of volunteer chaperones and our brilliant sets are built and painted by a team of volunteers and The Archway simply wouldn't be what it is without them all.



We are always looking to welcome new volunteers and you can see that there is something for everyone - so why not get involved? Our yearly programme comprises a real mixture of theatre from classic, well known plays to brand new playwrights.

You can expect comedies and tragedies, Shakespeare to Pantomime. Our theatre is invested in giving opportunities to our younger members to perform – both from our Saturday Youth Workshop and our Monday evening Young Adults group. I have been a member of The Archway Theatre for almost 30 years and you might have seen me on stage performing or in the programme as the director.

I believe strongly that access to live theatre is life-enhancing and culturally enriching and, as a theatre, we offer you 11 varied plays in our main house. We are also continuing our Summer outdoor residency at our partner Tilgate Park. In addition we occupy further archways which include a studio theatre and a function room (which is available for hire). This further space gives us a venue for shorter runs of plays that may not have mainstream appeal or for music gigs and visiting productions. So there are plenty of ways to get involved and to enjoy our varied output.

Mandi Dunford

Archway Theatre Council

Chair Mandi Dunford
Secretary Eddie Redfern
Treasurer George Duda
Membership Secretary
Alison Stuart
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Elizabeth White, Dave Humphrey
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Elodie Bass, Lisa Last (co-chair), Howard Miller, Bryony Fenn (co-chair), Robert Gregory, Gary Andrews* and Peter Tucker* - *co-opted
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Alex Gibson, Neil Hankin, Jo Ord, Paul Tester, Elizabeth White (chair), Mike Ellis (co-opted)
Repertory (Rep) Mandi Dunford, Eddie Redfern, Gary Andrews (co-opted), Ali Hannant, Robert Gregory, Mike Fenn, James Murtagh, Tulin Udul, Mandy Humphrey
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Our opening times are Sunday 10am until 11.30am.
Contact us through the website or on our Facebook page

The Monkey's Paw and Other Stories

Adapted by: Caroline Donald

Devised by: The 4th Wish Company

4th Wish Writing credits:
Lisa Musselwhite
Sophie Waddington
Daniel Welch
Robin Dixon
Harriet Dimmock
James Hine
Olivia Trueman



Caroline Donald

Caroline is thrilled to be directing The Monkey's Paw and devising with an awesome company of creatives. She is known both on-stage and off-stage for keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes, which is equipping her to see different perspectives of a show. Most recently performing in Wind in the Willows, You Can't Stop The Rhythm, co-director of Rules for Living, and as Stage Manager on Clue, Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens and Much Ado About Nothing. Taking on the role of director and chief deviser for this production has been a rewarding challenge. Don't be afraid ...

Running time: 95 minutes

Number of Intervals: One

Please note: this production will contain strobe lighting, smoke and minor threat. It is suitable for a 14+ audience. The early Saturday show will be an accessible version.

Creative team

Set Designer: Phil Harvey

Sound and Visual Designer and Operators: Thom Humphrey and Phil Harvey

Lighting Designer and Operator: Thom Humphrey

Assistant Director and Stage Manager: Matthew Donald



Asst Stage Manager: Lucy Giess

Paw design and creation: James Fairhurst

Costumes by: Sue Sherwin

Master Carpenter: Phil Harvey

Set Construction: Phil Harvey

Lights, Sound and Visuals Operated by: Thom Humphrey

Dress Rehearsal Photography:

Special thanks for the support of various others not credited above, without which this production would not have been possible. It is appreciated.

Cast in Order of Appearance



Young Morris, Mr Sampson and 4th Wish
Daniel Welch

Daniel is delighted to be returning to the Archway stage for another helping of theatrical darkness in The Monkey's Paw.
Following a phenomenal first year at Archway, Daniel has appeared as Johnny Martin in Home, I'm Darling, Andy Barrow in Brassed Off, Sir Andrew Aguecheek in Twelfth Night, and in Blackadder and Lords and Ladies. He was also recently seen as Fester in The Addams Family Musical.
Away from the stage, Daniel is a primary school teacher, where he spends his days encouraging children to read stories about ghosts, monsters and things that definitely do not live under the bed. He has also performed with the National Youth Theatre and has a background in British wrestling, which is perhaps useful preparation for a career in theatre.
This production has been a particularly exciting one to develop, exploring the darker corners of W. W. Jacobs' classic tale and asking just how much control we really have over our own fate.
Daniel hopes you enjoy the show. Just remember: be careful what you wish for.



Herbert White and 4th Wish
Ben Andrews

I hope you find tonight's production satisfactory and enjoyably spooky. If you're wondering why you recognise this face, it may be because you have seen Ben in various other productions, such as The Wizard of Oz in 2018 or more recently The Wrong Way Round, where I played the Sticky Shadow acting as a spookier comic relief character, or maybe just around the theatre on occasion. One thing before you read what the next person has to say, my all-time favourite scary movie is Scream, due to Mathew Lillard's amazing performance as Stu Macher. So tell me, what's your favourite scary movie?

John White
Greg Field

Greg is back performing a play in the Studio for the first time since Dennis Potter's Blue Remembered Hills fifteen years ago. He's delighted to see the Studio so busy, with original writing and devised theatre being performed on a regular basis. He feels The Monkey's Paw is the perfect story to perform on a cold winter's night - where nothing is scarier than what you conjure with your own imagination!





Jennie White
Sara Jessup

Sara lived and worked in London as a professional actress for 12 years, before moving out of the city and having a family.
Archway credits include Lady Bracknell in The Importance of Being Earnest, Edith in Rules for Living and Judy in The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.
Sara is so happy to be back in the Studio space again in this spooky tale of superstition, greed and loss.

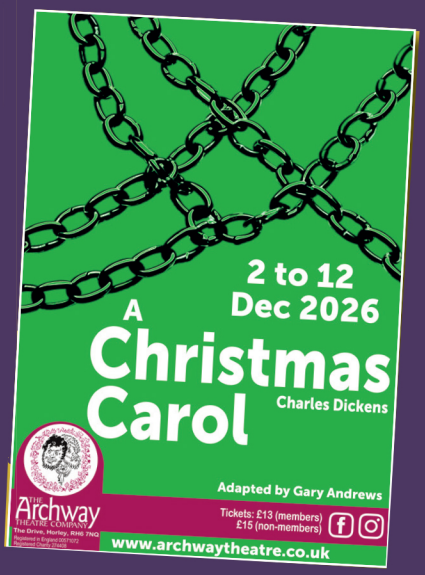
Sergeant Major Morris
James Fairhurst



Jamesik Fairhurstovich is descended from Eastern European nobility, and has been involved with The Archway Theatre for over 150 years. He favours the theatre for its myriad tunnels and hidden spaces, where he sleeps in a dark, dank, damp corner. His favourite colour is deep red, and he has a fetish for necks. He enjoys performing here, but avoids the outdoor plays in Tilgate Park. He hopes that you enjoy the performance and will invite him, afterwards, into your home, for a little bite!

Coming soon...





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Narrator:

Sue Sherwin

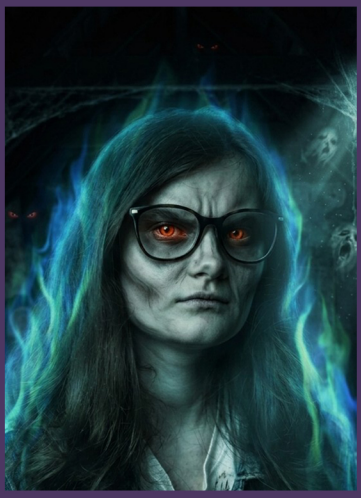


Sue has been a member of the Archway for many, many years! During that time she has had a 'go' at practically everything - some more successfully than others! She has been privileged to have had some wonderful roles in all genres but she gets most joy out of making people laugh, from Polish cleaning ladies to blinkered mother-in-laws. Her favourites being incompetent piano players in Daisy Pulls it Off and Dad's Army. Both eccentric old ladies. Her husband always said that she didn't have to act!

4th Wish devising company:

Harriet Dimmock

Harriet has been in shows at The Archway since 2017 and always loves performing here and being a part of the community the theatre has. This show has been very fun to be a part of, and Harriet has enjoyed the horror side of performing. Her favourite horror film is 'Sinners' (2025). Harriet is a classically trained actor with a BA (hons) in acting; she has recently been in a few award winning short films and shows. Recent credits at The Archway include What You Will (2025) and Hogfather (2025).



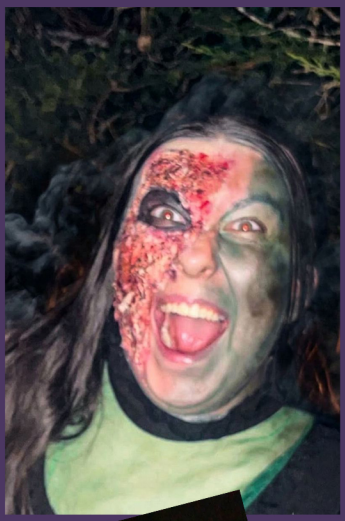


James Hine

James has resided in this theatre for five years now. Maybe you've already seen him as Ned in Nell Gwynn, the dad in the IT or John Tate in DNA. Despite being a late addition to the cast, James has had a lot of fun working to produce this experience. Keep your eyes peeled for him... you never know when he'll turn up.

Olivia Trueman

Although Olivia has been a member since 2017, this is her very first proper horror play and her first time back on the stage since Blackadder in December 2023. This excludes her regular appearances in the monthly Studio shows with Dingbats Improv, where she typically performs one or two games per show. You can also find her honing her craft at Dingbats' weekly improv workshops - held on Wednesdays at The Archway, The Hawth, or the Three Bridges Free Church, depending on the week's schedule.
Olivia is thrilled to be part of The Monkey's Paw and hopes she can give you a proper fright while you enjoy the show!



Sophie Waddington

This is Sophie's second play with The Archway, having performed in Medea earlier this year. Prior to this she spent 15 years working and performing with Pitchy Breath Theatre.
Sophie has thoroughly enjoyed being part of the devised pieces that make up this collection of creepy and macabre stories. From research and writing to improvisation and workshopping, she has thrown herself into every aspect of the creative process, helping to create an eerie and immersive experience for the audience.
Sophie sincerely hopes you enjoy the entertainment... but warns you not to get too comfortable.





Abi Wildish-Nice

Abi has been at The Archway Theatre for about five years and has been in three Youth Workshop productions and really enjoyed them, amongst doing other shows as well. She loves horror and creeping people out and is very excited to be a part of this show!

Lisa Musselwhite



This is Lisa's third performance at The Archway, having played Mrs Peacock in Clue and Mrs Beech and Miss Thorne in Goodnight Mr Tom previously.
The Monkey's Paw called out to Lisa as she's a huge horror fan, and the opportunity to devise something too was irresistible.
The first horror film she ever saw (unbeknown to her parents) was a Hammer House of Horror, called The House that Bled to Death. The scary memories of that film have stayed with her ever since, and put her on the path of being a lifelong horror movie fanatic.

Robin Dixon

The youngest of five, Robin is the seventh son of a seventh son, and as a result of this unique and mystic lineage, is in touch with the eldritch realm through arcane and uncanny rituals. These rituals, though veiled in shadow and mystery, largely involve sitting on a sofa.





Spotlight On... Horley: A Town Shaped by History and Resilience

Over the last century, Horley has experienced dramatic change, wartime activity and significant events that have helped shape the town we know today.
One of the most fascinating chapters in Horley's history dates back to the First World War. Between 1916 and 1918, a Ministry of Munitions depot known as No. 35 Munitions Store operated near the railway station. The site employed hundreds of workers, many of them women known as "munitionettes", who helped fill and prepare millions of shells for the war effort.

The area continued to evolve in the years that followed. In 1935, developer J. W. Hall purchased land that would become the Horley Gardens Estate, helping to shape the modern residential community around the station. During the Second World War, the estate accommodated Canadian forces, RAF personnel and later Italian prisoners of war, reflecting Horley's important wartime role.

Horley's history has also been marked by extraordinary incidents and disasters. Records preserved by local historians tell of devastating floods, fires, railway accidents and aircraft crashes. Among the most significant was the 1969 Ariana air disaster near Fernhill, which claimed many lives and remains one of the area's most tragic events. Other notable incidents include a coach crashing into shops in 1952, a railway wagon accident at the subway in 1960, and a major chemical spill in 1998 that temporarily brought parts of the town to a standstill.

These stories offer a remarkable glimpse into the people, places and events that have shaped Horley over the years. While the historical records tell us what happened, they also invite us to consider the experiences of those who lived through these moments, from munitions workers and wartime families to those affected by accidents, disasters and extraordinary acts of courage.

We have also been grateful to everyone who has helped bring some of these stories to life through drama, allowing modern audiences to explore not only the events themselves but also how people may have experienced and understood them at the time. By combining historical research with creative interpretation, these stories continue to resonate with new generations.

Special thanks to the Horley History Society, whose dedication to researching, preserving and sharing local history has made this work possible. Through their painstaking research and archive collections, Horley's rich heritage continues to be remembered, explored and celebrated for future generations.



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First published in 1902, 'The Monkey's Paw' by W. W. Jacobs is one of the most famous supernatural short stories in English literature. The tale follows the White family, who come into possession of a mysterious monkey's paw said to grant three wishes. As they use it, they discover that interfering with fate comes at a terrible cost. Combining elements of horror, suspense and tragedy, the story explores timeless themes of grief, temptation and the consequences of wishing for what we do not fully understand. More than a century after it was written, The Monkey's Paw continues to captivate audiences through its unsettling atmosphere and its powerful reminder that some wishes are best left unmade.

Adapting 'The Monkey's Paw' reminded us that the most unsettling horrors are often those we never quite see. As Jacobs did so brilliantly, we have relied on darkness, flickering light, distant sounds and moments of silence to build a sense of dread. A knock at the door, a shadow crossing the room, the dying glow of the fire: these small details help bring the White family's hopes, fears and grief to life. We hope this timeless tale leaves your imagination lingering long after the final scene.

Something Isn't Quite Right...

Creating this piece made us realise just how carefully horror is put together. Rather than chasing jump scares, we were far more interested in creating something creepy and slightly uncanny, that feeling that something is wrong, even when everything appears ordinary. As we explored different horror techniques, we noticed how often stories follow familiar structures: a small disturbance, growing uncertainty, mounting tension and an inevitable moment of reckoning. We tried to weave these patterns into the play's journey and character choices. As you watch, see if you can spot the clues and turning points that quietly guide the story forward. Sometimes the most effective horror is not what leaps out at you, but what slowly creeps up behind you.

Our special thanks go to the Horley History Society who kindly spent an educational Saturday morning with us in Horley library sharing their expertise.

A lot of tonight's pieces are dramatically interpreted stories based on real events including:
1881 - murder on the Brighton Line
1928 - High Trees School fire
1914 - Munitionettes
1940s - Services kitchen in Arch
1946 - Gas shell dump
1969 - Ariana Afghan airlines plane crash
2020s - The worm (adapted from the animation by Don't Walk Home After Dark)

Membership

The different types of membership at The Archway Theatre

We are excited to have introduced different levels of membership and are sure there is something to suit you!

At all levels, our members are able to enjoy the discounted price for tickets and have open access to the bar and other facilities.

All of our members are also welcome to offer their assistance in the volunteer roles needed for each production night, operating Box Office, running Front of House, or serving drinks at the Bar and Coffee station. By purchasing one of the higher levels of membership there are more benefits available, including opportunities to be involved in productions on stage or as part of the essential backstage and production crews.

More details about our different levels of membership are available on our website.







Club policies

■ **No cameras, videos, recorders or mobile phones:** The use of cameras, video cameras, audio recorders and mobile phones in the Auditorium is not allowed. Please make sure that mobile phones are switched off during the performance. We would also remind you that the sound of coughing, rustling paper, talking and the beep of digital watches may distract the actors and your fellow audience members.

■ **Late admission** to the Auditorium is only possible if there is an appropriate break in the performance. The House Manager will let you know.

■ **No smoking:** Smoking is illegal anywhere in the theatre. There is a designated smoking area outside the theatre entrance beyond the yellow line. For clarification please speak to one of the Front of House managers.

■ **Interval drinks:** The Bar Staff will appreciate receiving your orders for interval drinks before the performance starts. Pre-ordered drinks will be available near the stairs at the start of the interval. Ice creams can be purchased from the coffee staff behind the bar but, in common with all other food and drinks, they are not permitted in the Auditorium.

■ **Bar service:** Patrons are respectfully reminded that licensing laws do not allow us to serve under-16s at the bar. We would therefore ask for your co-operation that only adults purchase from the bar. Where this is unavoidable we have a designated area for use by under-18-year-olds. Please do not take offence if we ask youngsters to move away from the immediate bar area.

Staffing

Volunteers: Our theatre is staffed by volunteers. On a performance night, the Box office, Front of House, Bar and Coffee are all run by volunteers. If you would like to become a volunteer please speak to the Front of House staff.

Box Office

■ **Online bookings** visit www.archwaytheatre.co.uk. Tickets for all of our productions in the Main House and the Studio can now be booked online 24 hours a day. You will be able to view our seating plan and pick your seats from those available.

■ **Box Office:** Tickets can still be purchased on performance nights by visiting the Box Office from 7pm (subject to availability).

■ **Personal bookings:** The theatre will be open on Saturday mornings between 10.30am and 11.30am for us to take your booking for you there and then.

■ **Facebook bookings:** visit us at facebook.com/Archway Theatre and click on the Buy Tickets logo at the top.

■ **Permanent bookings:** In November we offer our club members the opportunity of booking seats for the forthcoming (excluding pantomime) nine productions during the following year.

This allows you to book the same seats, on the same evening, for each play, and payment can be made singly or by instalments. Permanent bookers don't need to do anything with online bookings, it is all done for you.

Acknowledgements

The Archway Theatre would like to extend its thanks for the members of The Archway Sponsors' Club, which contributes to the funding of at least one production each year. Our appreciation also goes to all our advertisers, whom we hope you will consider when seeking goods or services. Please mention the Archway Theatre if you utilise any of our advertisers' services.

The Archway Theatre is a member of the Little Theatre Guild. Our representative is Elodie Foray
www.littleguild theatreorg.co.uk

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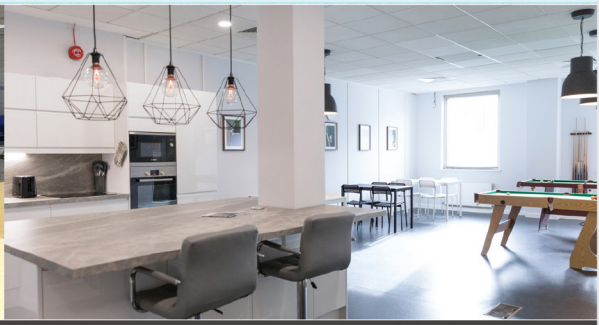
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